

Han, Kristin

From: karin lamb [kablamb@interbel.net]
To: Han, Kristin
Cc:
Subject: Cultural & Aesthetic Testimony
Attachments:

Sent: Sun 2/11/2007 6:07 PM

To: The Long Range Planning Committee of the Montana Legislature

Tobacco Valley Improvement Association Board of Arts
Grant # 1302
Art Center Expansion Project: "The Final Inch"

Honorable Members,

Without the support of the Cultural and Aesthetic Grant Program, we probably wouldn't have begun the major undertaking of expanding our Creative Arts Center. This is the third request we have made with respect to this project, due to the low levels of funding available compared to requested amounts (50% of request, or less, so far). Still, we feel this is a very valuable program as one of the few sources of capital expenditure for cultural infrastructure. For us it has served as a "get the ball rolling" incentive program to seek funding from other sources, and, with the help of the Montana Arts Council, a very accessible alternative for small arts organizations such as ours. In the long run, it has helped challenged us to build community involvement, increase the cultural appeal of our area for residents and tourists, as well as drawing thousands of dollars of out of state money into our county in the form of matching grants.

With the recommended funding, our organization will be able to complete this project and put it into full operation. This can only be a win/win situation for all concerned.

We also support the increased funding for the Cultural and Aesthetic Grant Program, in general, from revenue generated by tourism related taxes, since we feel efforts by cultural organizations such as ours greatly increase tourist appeal throughout Montana.

Thank you,
Karin Lamb, Chair, TVIA Board of Arts